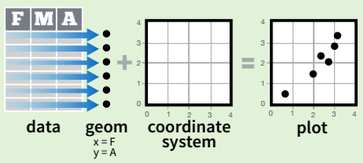
Data Visualization with ggplot2 Cheat Sheet

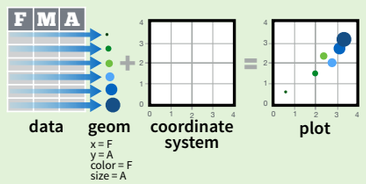
RStudio®

Basics

ggplot2 is based on the **grammar of graphics**, the idea that you can build every graph from the same few components: a **data** set, a set of **geoms**—visual marks that represent data points, and a **coordinate system.**



To display data values, map variables in the data set to aesthetic properties of the geom like **size**, **color**, and **x** and **y** locations.



Build a graph with **qplot()** or **ggplot()**

aesthetic mappings · data · geom

qplot(x = cty, y = hwy, color = cyl, data = mpg, geom = "point"**)**
Creates a complete plot with given data, geom, and mappings. Supplies many useful defaults.

ggplot(data = mpg, **aes(**x = cty, y = hwy**))**
Begins a plot that you finish by adding layers to. No defaults, but provides more control than qplot().

data · add layers, elements with + · layer = geom + default stat + layer specific mappings · additional elements

```
ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy, cty)) +
 geom_point(aes(color = cyl)) +
 geom_smooth(method ="lm") +
 coord_cartesian() +
 scale_color_gradient() +
 theme_bw()
```

Add a new layer to a plot with a **geom_*()** or **stat_*()** function. Each provides a geom, a set of aesthetic mappings, and a default stat and position adjustment.

last_plot()
Returns the last plot

ggsave("plot.png", width = 5, height = 5)
Saves last plot as 5' x 5' file named "plot.png" in working directory. Matches file type to file extension.

Geoms - Use a geom to represent data points, use the geom's aesthetic properties to represent variables. Each function returns a layer.

One Variable

Continuous

a <- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy))

a + geom_area(stat = "bin")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size
b + geom_area(aes(y = ..density..), stat = "bin")

a + geom_density(kernel = "gaussian"**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight
b + geom_density(aes(y = ..county..))

a + geom_dotplot()
x, y, alpha, color, fill

a + geom_freqpoly()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size
b + geom_freqpoly(aes(y = ..density..))

a + geom_histogram(binwidth = 5**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight
b + geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..))

Discrete

b <- ggplot(mpg, aes(fl))

b + geom_bar()
x, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

Graphical Primitives

c <- ggplot(map, aes(long, lat))

c + geom_polygon(aes(group = group)**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

d <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))

d + geom_path(lineend="butt", linejoin="round', linemitre=1**)**
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

d + geom_ribbon(aes(ymin=unemploy - 900, ymax=unemploy + 900)**)**
x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

e <- ggplot(seals, aes(x = long, y = lat))

e + geom_segment(aes(
xend = long + delta_long,
yend = lat + delta_lat)**)**
x, xend, y, yend, alpha, color, linetype, size

e + geom_rect(aes(xmin = long, ymin = lat, xmax= long + delta_long, ymax = lat + delta_lat)**)**
xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

Two Variables

Continuous X, Continuous Y

f <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy))

f + geom_blank()

f + geom_jitter()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size

f + geom_point()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size

f + geom_quantile()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size, weight

f + geom_rug(sides = "bl"**)**
alpha, color, linetype, size

f + geom_smooth(model = lm**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

f + geom_text(aes(label = cty)**)**
x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust

Discrete X, Continuous Y

g <- ggplot(mpg, aes(class, hwy))

g + geom_bar(stat = "identity")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

g + geom_boxplot()
lower, middle, upper, x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size, weight

g + geom_dotplot(binaxis = "y", stackdir = "center"**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill

g + geom_violin(scale = "area"**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

Discrete X, Discrete Y

h <- ggplot(diamonds, aes(cut, color))

h + geom_jitter()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size

Continuous Bivariate Distribution

i <- ggplot(movies, aes(year, rating))

i + geom_bin2d(binwidth = c(5, 0.5)**)**
xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

i + geom_density2d()
x, y, alpha, colour, linetype, size

i + geom_hex()
x, y, alpha, colour, fill size

Continuous Function

j <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))

j + geom_area()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

j + geom_line()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

j + geom_step(direction = "hv"**)**
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

Visualizing error

df <- data.frame(grp = c("A", "B"), fit = 4:5, se = 1:2)
k <- ggplot(df, aes(grp, fit, ymin = fit-se, ymax = fit+se))

k + geom_crossbar(fatten = 2**)**
x, y, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

k + geom_errorbar()
x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, linetype, size, width (also **geom_errorbarh()**)

k + geom_linerange()
x, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, linetype, size

k + geom_pointrange()
x, y, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size

Maps

data <- data.frame(murder = USArrests$Murder,
state = tolower(rownames(USArrests)))
map <- map_data("state")
l <- ggplot(data, aes(fill = murder))

l + geom_map(aes(map_id = state), map = map**) +**
expand_limits(x = map$long, y = map$lat**)**
map_id, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

Three Variables

seals$z <- with(seals, sqrt(delta_long^2 + delta_lat^2))
m <- ggplot(seals, aes(long, lat))

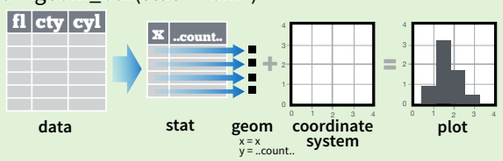
m + geom_contour(aes(z = z)**)**
x, y, z, alpha, colour, linetype, size, weight

m + geom_raster(aes(fill = z), hjust=0.5, vjust=0.5, interpolate=FALSE**)**
x, y, alpha, fill

m + geom_tile(aes(fill = z)**)**
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

Stats - An alternative way to build a layer

Some plots visualize a **transformation** of the original data set. Use a **stat** to choose a common transformation to visualize, e.g. **a + geom_bar(stat = "bin")**



Each stat creates additional variables to map aesthetics to. These variables use a common **..name..** syntax.

stat functions and geom functions both combine a stat with a geom to make a layer, i.e. **stat_bin(geom="bar")** does the same as **geom_bar(stat="bin")**

stat function | layer specific mappings | variable created by transformation

i + stat_density2d(aes(fill = ..level..), geom = "polygon", n = 100**)**

geom for layer | parameters for stat

a + stat_bin(binwidth = 1, origin = 10**)** — 1D distributions
x, y | ..count.., ..ncount.., ..density.., ..ndensity..
a + stat_bindot(binwidth = 1, binaxis = "x"**)**
x, y, | ..count.., ..ncount..
a + stat_density(adjust = 1, kernel = "gaussian"**)**
x, y, | ..count.., ..density.., ..scaled..

f + stat_bin2d(bins = 30, drop = TRUE**)** — 2D distributions
x, y, fill | ..count.., ..density..
f + stat_binhex(bins = 30**)**
x, y, fill | ..count.., ..density..
f + stat_density2d(contour = TRUE, n = 100**)**
x, y, color, size | ..level..

m + stat_contour(aes(z = z)**)** — 3 Variables
x, y, z, order | ..level..
m+ stat_spoke(aes(radius= z, angle = z)**)**
angle, radius, x, xend, y, yend | ..x.., ..xend.., ..y.., ..yend..
m + stat_summary_hex(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = mean**)**
x, y, z, fill | ..value..
m + stat_summary2d(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = mean**)**
x, y, z, fill | ..value..

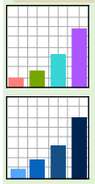
g + stat_boxplot(coef = 1.5**)** — Comparisons
x, y | ..lower.., ..middle.., ..upper.., ..outliers..
g + stat_ydensity(adjust = 1, kernel = "gaussian", scale = "area"**)**
x, y | ..density.., ..scaled.., ..count.., ..n.., ..violinwidth.., ..width..

f + stat_ecdf(n = 40**)** — Functions
x, y | ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_quantile(quantiles = c(0.25, 0.5, 0.75), formula = y ~ log(x), method = "rq"**)**
x, y | ..quantile.., ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_smooth(method = "auto", formula = y ~ x, se = TRUE, n = 80, fullrange = FALSE, level = 0.95**)**
x, y | ..se.., ..x.., ..y.., ..ymin.., ..ymax..

ggplot() + stat_function(aes(x = -3:3), fun = dnorm, n = 101, args = list(sd=0.5)**)** — General Purpose
x | ..y..
f + stat_identity()
ggplot() + stat_qq(aes(sample=1:100), distribution = qt, dparams = list(df=5)**)**
sample, x, y | ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_sum()
x, y, size | ..size..
f + stat_summary(fun.data = "mean_cl_boot"**)**
f + stat_unique()

Scales

Scales control how a plot maps data values to the visual values of an aesthetic. To change the mapping, add a custom scale.



n <- b + geom_bar(aes(fill = fl)**)**
n

scale_ | aesthetic to adjust | prepackaged scale to use | scale specific arguments

n + scale_fill_manual(
values = c("skyblue", "royalblue", "blue", "navy"),
limits = c("d", "e", "p", "r"), breaks =c("d", "e", "p", "r"),
name = "fuel", labels = c("D", "E", "P", "R")**)**

range of values to include in mapping | title to use in legend/axis | labels to use in legend/axis | breaks to use in legend/axis

General Purpose scales

Use with any aesthetic:
alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size

scale_*_continuous() - map cont' values to visual values
scale_*_discrete() - map discrete values to visual values
scale_*_identity() - use data values **as** visual values
scale_*_manual(values = c()**)** - map discrete values to manually chosen visual values

X and Y location scales

Use with x or y aesthetics (x shown here)

scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%m/%d"), breaks = date_breaks("2 weeks")**)** - treat x values as dates. See ?strptime for label formats.
scale_x_datetime() - treat x values as date times. Use same arguments as scale_x_date().
scale_x_log10() - Plot x on log10 scale
scale_x_reverse() - Reverse direction of x axis
scale_x_sqrt() - Plot x on square root scale

Color and fill scales

Discrete

n <- b + geom_bar(aes(fill = fl)**)**

n + scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Blues"**)**
For palette choices:
library(RColorBrewer)
display.brewer.all()

n + scale_fill_grey(start = 0.2, end = 0.8, na.value = "red"**)**

Continuous

o <- a + geom_dotplot(aes(fill = ..x..)**)**

o + scale_fill_gradient(low = "red", high = "yellow"**)**

o + scale_fill_gradient2(low = "red", hight = "blue", mid = "white", midpoint = 25**)**

o + scale_fill_gradientn(colours = terrain.colors(6)**)**
Also: rainbow(), heat.colors(), topo.colors(), cm.colors(), RColorBrewer::brewer.pal()

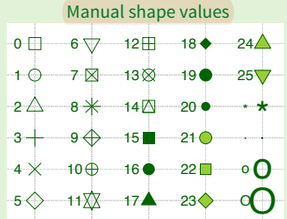
Shape scales

p <- f + geom_point(aes(shape = fl)**)**

p + scale_shape(solid = FALSE**)**

p + scale_shape_manual(values = c(3:7)**)**
Shape values shown in chart on right

Manual shape values



Size scales

q <- f + geom_point(aes(size = cyl)**)**

q + scale_size_area(max = 6**)**
Value mapped to area of circle (not radius)

Coordinate Systems

r <- b + geom_bar()

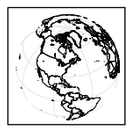
r + coord_cartesian(xlim = c(0, 5)**)**
xlim, ylim
The default cartesian coordinate system

r + coord_fixed(ratio = 1/2**)**
ratio, xlim, ylim
Cartesian coordinates with fixed aspect ratio between x and y units

r + coord_flip()
xlim, ylim
Flipped Cartesian coordinates

r + coord_polar(theta = "x", direction=1 **)**
theta, start, direction
Polar coordinates

r + coord_trans(ytrans = "sqrt"**)**
xtrans, ytrans, limx, limy
Transformed cartesian coordinates. Set extras and strains to the name of a window function.



z + coord_map(projection = "ortho", orientation=c(41, -74, 0)**)**
projection, orientation, xlim, ylim
Map projections from the mapproj package (mercator (default), azequalarea, lagrange, etc.)

Faceting

Facets divide a plot into subplots based on the values of one or more discrete variables.

t <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point()

t + facet_grid(. ~ fl)
facet into columns based on fl

t + facet_grid(year ~ .)
facet into rows based on year

t + facet_grid(year ~ fl)
facet into both rows and columns

t + facet_wrap(~ fl)
wrap facets into a rectangular layout

Set **scales** to let axis limits vary across facets

t + facet_grid(y ~ x, scales = "free")
x and y axis limits adjust to individual facets
- **"free_x"** - x axis limits adjust
- **"free_y"** - y axis limits adjust

Set **labeller** to adjust facet labels

t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_both)

fl: c	fl: d	fl: e	fl: p	fl: r

t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_bquote(alpha ^ .(x)**))**

α^c	α^d	α^e	α^p	α^r

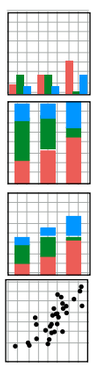
t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_parsed)

c	d	e	p	r

Position Adjustments

Position adjustments determine how to arrange geoms that would otherwise occupy the same space.

s <- ggplot(mpg, aes(fl, fill = drv))



s + geom_bar(position = "dodge")
Arrange elements side by side

s + geom_bar(position = "fill")
Stack elements on top of one another, normalize height

s + geom_bar(position = "stack")
Stack elements on top of one another

f + geom_point(position = "jitter")
Add random noise to X and Y position of each element to avoid overplotting

Each position adjustment can be recast as a function with manual **width** and **height** arguments

s + geom_bar(position = position_dodge(width = 1))

Labels

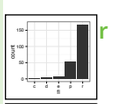
t + ggtitle("New Plot Title"**)**
Add a main title above the plot
t + xlab("New X label"**)**
Change the label on the X axis
t + ylab("New Y label"**)**
Change the label on the Y axis
t + labs(title =" New title", x = "New x", y = "New y"**)**
All of the above

Use scale functions to update legend labels

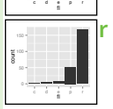
Legends

t + theme(legend.position = "bottom"**)**
Place legend at "bottom", "top", "left", or "right"
t + guides(color = "none"**)**
Set legend type for each aesthetic: colorbar, legend, or none (no legend)
t + scale_fill_discrete(name = "Title", labels = c("A", "B", "C"**)**
Set legend title and labels with a scale function.

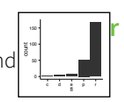
Themes



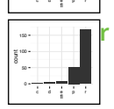
r + theme_bw()
White background with grid lines



r + theme_grey()
Grey background (default theme)



r + theme_classic()
White background no gridlines



r + theme_minimal()
Minimal theme

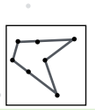
ggthemes - Package with additional ggplot2 themes

Zooming

Without clipping (preferred)

t + coord_cartesian(
xlim = c(0, 100), ylim = c(10, 20)**)**

With clipping (removes unseen data points)



t + xlim(0, 100**) + ylim(**10, 20**)**
t + scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0, 100)**) + scale_y_continuous(**limits = c(0, 100)**)**